



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
HEADQUARTERS, III CORPS AND FORT HOOD  
1001 761ST TANK BATTALION AVENUE  
FORT HOOD, TEXAS 76544-5000

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

AFZF-GA-SAFE

22 SEP 2005

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Columbus Day Safety Message 2005

1. During the Columbus Day weekend, 6-10 October 2005, we will celebrate Christopher Columbus' spirit of adventure and exploration. Americans celebrate the holiday in a variety of ways. Likewise, we in the military celebrate the holiday by taking time out from our busy OPTEMPO to enjoy the long weekend with family and friends.
2. During this holiday weekend, safety must be everyone's number one priority. We had a bad experience over the Labor Day weekend losing two Soldiers in fatal accidents, one on an all-terrain vehicle and another in an automobile. This raised the total III Corps accidental fatalities during FY05 to 36, with 22 of these involving privately owned vehicles (POV).
3. Accident prevention is a continuous process. With the cooler/damp fall weather, new adverse driving conditions and challenges crop up. Fall weather can present slick roads and foggy driving conditions. These place extra demands on the driver's alertness and the vehicle's capability. Leaders should stress ways to minimize these risks during safety orientations. Additionally, leaders should review hunting safety tips prior to Soldiers engaging in hunting activities. Risk management can save lives! Commanders and leaders can find resources for seasonal and POV safety briefings at the Fort Hood webpage under **Keep em' Alive (Safety Resources for Leaders)**, and at the US Army Combat Readiness Center website <https://crc.army.mil/home/>.
5. I hope that each of you enjoy a safe and happy Columbus Day holiday with family and friends. Please view the holiday as a well-deserved breather from our busy training and work schedules.

  
THOMAS F. METZ  
Lieutenant General, USA  
Commanding

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